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BELONG, believe, ACHIEVE
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Weekly Newsletter – 16.12.21

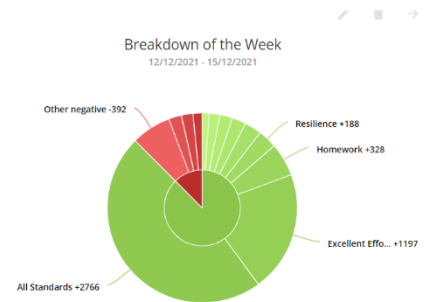
Hello! مرحباً! Ahoj! Ola! Dzień dobry! Salut! Hello!

Believe:

At the end of a busy term, we would like to thank you all for your continued support. We are proud of our school and its high standards and we appreciate your contribution towards achieving excellence in all that we do.

Merits – 12.12.21 – 15.12.21:

We are incredibly proud of the effort that our pupils are putting into their character and studies. A huge Willows well done to all of this week’s merit winners:



Year Group	Total	Excellent Effort	Merit Champions
Year 7	1410	7Curie	Megan Grace Williams
Year 8	1318	8Farah	Anisah Khamis
Year 9	829	9De Beauvoir	Rebecca Ubamadu
Year 10	984	10Mozart	Shaida Tufiq
Year 11	545	11Matisse	Mihai Patrascu

School News:

English Department:

This week contestants have taken to the stage for our ‘Academic Vocabulary’ quiz competitions. Each form class has entered a team of four brave pupils who have demonstrated the knowledge of the words they have gained this term from their tutor time reading. Standards have been exceptionally high and we are proud that words are giving our pupils power for the future!



Quantum Theatre:

This week, Year 9 experienced 'A Christmas Carol' performed by Quantum Theatre. This links to the novel that they have been reading during tutor time, 'The Last of the Spirits' by Chris Priestly. The performance was atmospheric and enchanting throughout. We'd like to thank Year 9 for their excellent behaviour and appreciation.

Books for Christmas:

Again, this year, our kind-hearted staff bought extra Christmas books so that some of our lucky pupils could receive a book for Christmas. We love reading at Willows and would encourage all parents to think of buying books for presents when possible. Please also remember that every child has access to hundreds of online books on their MYon account which they can access on any laptop or device with internet. Happy holiday reading!

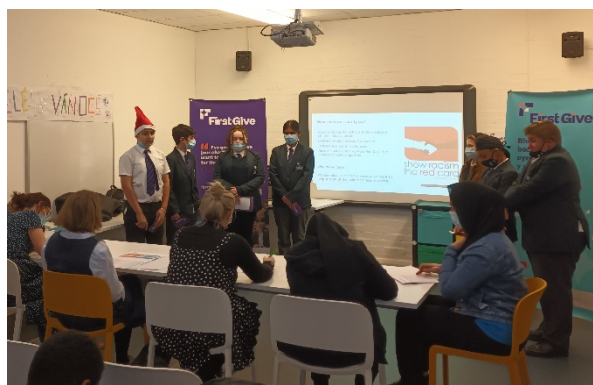
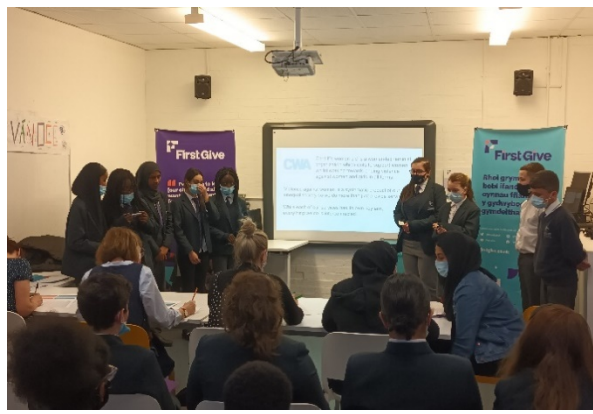
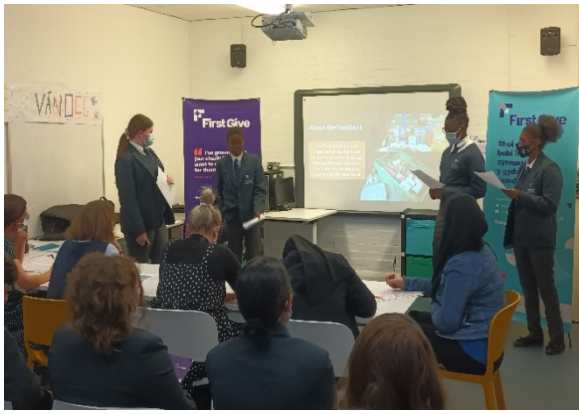


Genius Hour:

First Give presentations:

Tuesday 14th December was the date for the final presentations in the Genius Hour project. Each year 8 form group have been working all term to promote a social issue of their choosing. Each group then chose a local charity to find out more about the work that they do. Their chosen charities were:

- Cardiff Foodbank
- Salvation Army
- Cardiff Women's Aid
- Noah's Ark Children's Hospital
- Show Racism the Red Card
- Dreams and Wishes



The standard of presentation was outstanding. The pupils had clearly put a lot of work into it and clearly cared about their chosen charity. The judging panel, which consisted of teachers, last year's winners, a lady from First Give and a local councillor was greatly impressed with every group and found it difficult to choose a winning entry.

In the end, the pupils from 8MK were successful and won £1000 for their chosen charity, the Salvation Army. A massive well done to Caramo, Keyan, Ethan and Mohamed, who are seen here being presented with the £1000 cheque.

Also, special mention to Evie Power, who was awarded with the judge's special commendation for sharing her personal story, relating to her chosen charity.



Extra-curricular Activities:

Young Entrepreneurs Club:

The Young Entrepreneurs have successfully held the Winter raffle and found that this Christmas everyone is a winner. They have also decided to donate a large part of their profits to Cancer Research UK. Thank you to all the local businesses who donated to our raffle including Imperial Cafe, the Dad who donated the Gant socks, Starbucks, Morrisons, Tescos, Greggs and many many more businesses. You know who you are. Have a lovely Christmas.

Christmas Key-rings:

The pupils at Mr.Hanif's keyring making club completed their work this week and were very excited to take home the finished products for Christmas presents for their family and friends.



Friends of Willows:

We are raising money to support the School Uniform Exchange which was launched in the Summer of 2021.

We launched the appeal to help out families at our school who are struggling to afford uniform, PE kit and shoes. We collect donations of outgrown clothing and share it discreetly with anyone who needs it.

We rely on donations of uniform which also cuts down on waste and helps the environment. We would like to be able to buy some stock to help more families.

If you are able to donate any amount, however small, please click on the following link.

<https://localgiving.org/appeal/FoWChristmas2021/>

Carol Concert – with a difference!

There was a fantastic response to the Willows High Christmas Community Concert last night. If you missed it, no fear! You can download the WillowsWaves app from your phones app store and listen to the show again, at your leisure.

Nadolig Llawen!

Health and Well-being:

Your health matters at Willows!

Dr Anwar advises on how to have yourself a merry COVID-safe Christmas



The new variant of coronavirus, **omicron**, has been rapidly spreading across the UK. As Christmas approaches and infection levels continue to rise, it's understandable that many are concerned that their plans will be threatened by the new variant. If you are planning on spending Christmas with family and friends, **here's what you need to do to stay safe and help protect our families, friends and the NHS.**

1. **Don't forget the basics - Hands, Face and Space**
2. **Get tested** if you develop symptoms for COVID-19 and **self-isolate immediately**
3. **Limit contact** as much as possible with people outside of your household and remember to **'Flow before you go'**



It is now more important than ever **we adhere to the guidance provided by the Welsh Government**. You can keep updated at <https://gov.wales/coronavirus> or by scanning the QR code.

Together we'll keep Wales safe.

If you have any questions, you can find Dr Qashif Anwar in the Science Department in room S5 or **send your question to qashif.anwar@willows.cardiff.sch.uk**. Together we'll keep Wales safe.

Safeguarding:

A reminder that our school safeguarding can be contacted if you have any worries or concerns about a child: Danielle.Mackintosh@Willows.Cardiff.sch.uk

A new service has been launched by the Cardiff Youth Service support young people to flourish and thrive, building on their individual talents, skills and abilities. You can watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuUfKKWVV6Q>

Cardiff Family Help Team are an early intervention service offering high quality information, advice and assistance to children and young people aged 0 – 18 (and to 25 for vulnerable adults) and their families living in Cardiff.

Cardiff Foodbank:

Willows High School is a partner agency for Cardiff Foodbank.

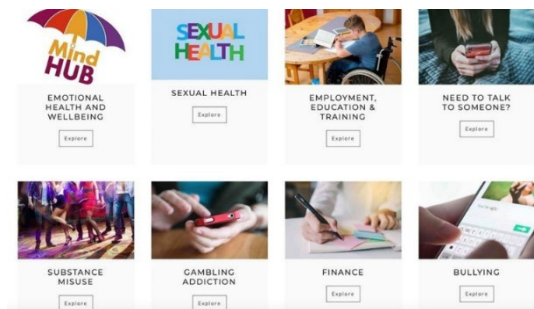
If you need a Foodbank Voucher please call Sam Watt (Family and Community Engagement Officer, Willows) in confidence on 02922 672744/07592 037937

Cardiff Youth Service:

Cardiff Youth Service can support young people on a variety of topics such as emotional health, housing, finance and help lines. More information can be found on their website:

<http://cardiffyouthservices.wales/>

Here is a reminder of some of the key services available for young people and their families:



- **School nurse** – pupils can text 07520615718 or ‘chat’ on ‘Chathealth.NHS.UK’ for confidential advice and support.
- **Family Gateway** – 03000133133 – provides advice for families no matter how big or small the problem.
- **Food Bank*** - our nearest food bank can be found at St. Saviours Church on Splott Road. For dates and times, go to <https://cardiff.foodbank.org.uk/>
- **Period Poverty** – Please e-mail Mrs. Bubbins at Kelly.Bubbins@willows.cardiff.sch.uk if you need feminine hygiene products and we’ll do our best to help.

Diolch:

Once again, we would like to thank you for all of your support this term.

As you are probably aware, there is a serious concern regarding the spread of Coronavirus at the moment, with cases increasing at a rapid rate.

We have been informed by the Welsh Government that there will be two additional planning days for schools so **pupils will now be returning to school on Thursday 6th January**. The Minister for Education will be making an announcement later today with more details regarding this but we felt that it was better that you had this important information at the earliest opportunity.

Have a great Christmas Break, more Willows-tastic news in the new year.

Team Willows

